

BOOK REVIEWS

Radium and Radiotherapy. Radium, Thorium and other Radio-Active Elements in Medicine and Surgery. By William S. Newcomet, M. D., Professor of Roentgenology and Radiology, Temple University, Medical Department; Physician to the American Oncologic Hospital; Fellow of the College of Physicians, Philadelphia. 12mo, 315 pages, with 71 illustrations and 1 plate. Cloth, \$2.25, net. Lea & Febiger, Publishers, Philadelphia and New York, 1914.

The application of radium and other radioactive substances in therapy is of recent date. Owing to the rarity and to the great cost of the active material only a small number of observers have been able to study and experiment with these agencies.

Aside from the unfortunate newspaper notoriety that was given radium (and some physicians) last year, the knowledge of physicians of radiotherapy (and Roentgentherapy) appears to be small. Yet this chapter of medicine is of great and growing interest.

The book of Newcomet is a mine of instruction for all those who wish to inform themselves upon radium and the other radioactive substances. The book is written clearly, concisely and comprehensively. The different radioactive elements are enumerated and described; their physical, etc., properties, disintegration, average period of life, methods of estimation and of employment are explained.

The concluding chapters are devoted to the application in practice: in dermatology; in ophthalmology; in diseases of the ear, nose and mouth; in diseases of the genito-urinary system; in gynecology; in epitheliomata and carcinomata; in sarcomata; in benign tumors; in internal medicine; in rheumatism and gout.

There is no undue enthusiasm manifested in this book; reports and recommendations are based strictly on observed facts.

H. J. K.

Psychoanalysis, Its Theories and Practical Application. By A. A. Brill, Ph. B., M. D. W. B. Saunders Company, 1912.

In attempting the difficult task of discussing the contents of a book on psychoanalysis, the reviewer was led by the desire to stimulate the interest in psychoanalysis among his confrères in California and to encourage them to inform themselves on a therapeutic procedure which seems to be superior to other forms of psychotherapy, when applied properly in certain cases. This wish may serve as an apology for a somewhat lengthy review.

Whether one adopts the teachings of Freud as they stand today, or refuses to accept them, or whether one takes a more conservative and expectant view and believes that the basic principles of his psychology will ultimately stand criticism; one who makes the pretension of keeping abreast with progress, cannot afford to disregard the study of psychoanalysis.

Not only the nerve specialist, not only the general practitioner, but the educated man in general must take cognizance of psychoanalysis, because the Freudian psychology is destined, not only to revolutionize the understanding and treatment of the psychoneuroses and psychoses, but also to play a large role in the interpretation of mythology, in the understanding and analysis of art and science, in fact in the development of every branch of culture.

The generalization of the application of psychoanalysis has already, three years ago, necessitated the publication of a non medical magazine (*Imago*, *Zeitschrift fuer Anwendung der Psychoanalyse auf die Geisteswissenschaften*) which, as the title explains, is devoted to the relation of psychoanalysis to spheres of human knowledge, non medical.

Anyone who has followed the literature on psychoanalysis will admit the intricacy of the problems

involved. The understanding of the subject is more difficult on account of the fact that there was, up to this publication of Brill, no comprehensive compilation of the data giving a clear conception of the comparatively new discipline in English. For this reason Brill's book is most opportune. Freud's "Neurosen-lehre" by Hirschmann has been translated into English under the title of Freud's "Theory of the Neuroses" by C. R. Payne, since Brill's book came out.

Brill's work gives a concise and precise idea of Freud's principles, illustrated with cases from the author's own experience. Brill is well qualified to write on psychoanalysis. He is one of the foremost exponents of the Freudian doctrine in the United States and he has occupied himself for years, not only with the theoretical study of psychoanalysis, but was able through his private practice and a large clinical material to verify the correctness of the Freudian principles. It is only through hard work and long experience that one can acquire a thorough knowledge of Freud's psychology. The mere perusal of Brill's book is not sufficient, particularly not for one unacquainted with psychoanalysis. It requires concentration and study by an unbiased mind, as one is confronted by, at first seemingly startling statements, as e. g. the sexual etiology of the actual and psychoneuroses.

A part of the contents of the book consists of Brill's papers published in the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, *American Journal of Insanity*, the *New York Medical Journal*, the *Medical Record* and the *New York State Journal of Medicine*.

The work is divided into twelve chapters. Brill has added to each of these a bibliography referring to its contents; a very practical innovation. A good general index ends the volume.

In the first chapter on psychoneuroses, Brill discusses the development of Freud's conception of the psychoneuroses and psychoses, their relation to the psychology of dreams, sex and the psychopathology of every-day life.

The cathartic method of treatment, originally used by Breuer and Freud under hypnosis, was discarded for the psychoanalytic method, through which a psychic force in the patient, which opposes the pathogenic idea from becoming conscious, is overcome. This force is called repression.

The repression (or the forgetting) of the pathogenic idea which has to be overcome, is never complete and the complex continues to strive to come to the surface, but is inhibited by the psychic censor. This struggle ends in a compromise and its result is a psychoneurotic symptom. The ego frees itself of the painful idea or unattainable wish, but a psychoneurotic symptom, into which the complex has been converted, has taken its place, and while the individual is spared a great deal of mental pain, this complex remains in the unconscious ready to become active. When this occurs it brings to the surface a distorted formation instead, and this becomes connected with the same pain, which the patient previously succeeded in repressing.

The classical symptoms of hysteria, such as paralyses, contractures, aphonia, convulsions, etc., are physical symptoms into which the painful ideas or incompatible wishes have been converted.

There are, however, persons in whom there is no adaptation for conversion and in these cases the effect of an unbearable idea becomes detached from this idea, and instead of being converted into the physical, remains in the psychic sphere. The unbearable thought does not attach itself to a conscious association and the detached affect allies itself to another indifferent idea and becomes an obsession and is so changed that the patient does not recognize it. He realizes its absurdity but he cannot rid himself from it. While the unbearable idea is suppressed, the affect remains unchanged and undiminished and the advantage thus gained